

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, the abstract, specification, and claim 1 have been amended. Claims 4 and 7-9 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification was objected to because of the use of the term "raw material" to define raw steel. Appropriate correction has been made to the specification and abstract to replace "raw material" with "raw steel."

Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 112

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner noted that the use of the term "raw material" to define raw steel in claim 1 rendered the claim unclear. Appropriate correction has been made to claim 1 to replace "raw material" with "raw steel."

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 103

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al. (US 5,848,846) (hereinafter "Sugiyama") in view of Lewis (US 2,383,727) (hereinafter "Lewis") and Takemura et al. (US 6,332,714) (hereinafter "Takemura").

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6

Amended claim 1 recites: "...an inner surface of the other annular collar is left as raw steel so as to be formed by bending." Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection noted above.

As noted in the Office Action, neither Sugiyama nor Takemura discusses that an inner surface of the other annular collar is left as raw steel. Instead, the Office Action relies on Lewis to show this feature of claim 1 and particularly relies on 2:30:2:41 of Lewis.

2:30-2:41 of Lewis discusses that it is preferable to accomplish the primary bending of the thin lip 11 before heat treatment. However, 2:42-2:45 of Lewis clearly discloses that the cup 10 and thin lip 11 are heat treated after bending.

Claim 1 recites that an inner surface of the other annular collar is left as raw steel. Lewis discloses an antifriction bearing where the cup 10 and thin lip 11 are heat treated. More specifically, the finished product of Lewis includes a cup 10 and thin lip 11 that are heat treated. Claim 1 recites a roller bearing assembly where the inner surface of one of the annular collars is left as raw steel. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references relied on by the Examiner discuss a roller bearing assembly where the inner surface of one of the annular collars is raw steel, or not subjected to some form of hardness treatment.

Specifically, there is no disclosure in any of the relied upon references regarding the feature of the present invention that a raceway surface of the outer race and an inner surface of one of the annular collars are subjected to induction hardening and tempering while an inner surface of the other annular collar is left as raw steel so as to be formed by bending. Lewis only discloses that a tip 11 of a cup 10 is bent before heat treatment and then the entire cup 10 including the tip 11 is hardened by heat treatment.

Claims 3, 5 and 6 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 3, 5 and 6 have been amended to improve the form of the claims, no new matter has been added.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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